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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/122,740	07/27/1998	KAZUHIRO TOMIZAWA	614.1907	4749

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EXAMINER

FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2162

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/122,740	Applicant(s) TOMIZAWA, KAZUHIRO	
	Examiner JEAN B. FLEURANTIN	Art Unit 2162	

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,12,14-16 and 23-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,23-25 and 29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12,14-16 and 26-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/17/05 has been entered.

i) Claim 29 has been added.

2. Claims 1, 3-8, 12, 14-16 and 23-29 remain pending for examination. The Examiner discusses newly added limitations of claim 29 in section (ii).

Response to Applicant' Remarks

3. Applicant's arguments, pages 8 and 9, up to last paragraph, with respect to claims 12, 14-16 and 26-28 have been fully considered but, have been found persuasive only to the extent the prior art of record does not specifically disclose the limitations "... features recited by independent claim 12 are not taught by the cited art, alone or in combination." And "... none of the cited art, alone or in combination teaches a corresponding to the plurality of applications occurs independently of whether a directory in the directory structure is a subordinate directory or a highest directory." However, The combination of Nakashima and Davis discloses such limitations.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12, 14-16 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,584,022 issued to Kikuchi et al., ("Kikuchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,918,229 issued to Davis et al., ("Davis").

As per claim 12, Kikuchi discloses "an information processing apparatus"(i.e., communication process between the client and the server via network; see col. 4, lines 50-55), "storing a plurality of applications at addresses of a computer-readable storage" (i.e., storing plurality of files in the storage location addresses; see col. 4, lines 62-64), comprising:

"directory structure, in the computer-readable storage" (i.e., storing the directory information in the directory structure storage; see col. 10, lines 8-11),

"comprising wherein, in the computer-readable storage, information of the of the application addresses are given directly of the directories structure, respectively" (see col. 9, lines 15-22), "the application address information identifying the applications, respectively" (i.e., identification information (ID1-ID6) are stored in the open information storage (25); see col. 10, lines 1-4),

"where the applications are needed for corresponding data files, and where the data files are organized and stored in the computer-readable storage using the directories of the directory structure" (see col. 3, lines 36-38),

"wherein an address of the plurality applications are the items of identification information" (i.e., identification information (ID3, ID5 and ID6) are respectively assigned to these directories (id3, id5 and id6); see col. 6, lines 50-56).

Kikuchi fails to explicitly disclose a plurality of directories corresponding to the plurality of applications independently of whether a directory in the directory structure is a subordinate directory or a highest directory. However, Davis discloses a plurality of directories corresponding to the plurality of applications independently of whether a directory in the directory structure is a subordinate directory or a highest directory (see col. 26, lines 36-44).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Nakashima with a plurality of directories corresponding to the plurality of applications independently of whether a directory in the directory structure is a subordinate directory or a highest directory as disclosed by Davis (see Davis Fig. 10 and corresponding descriptions). Such a modification would allow the teachings of Kikuchi to provide users with quick and facile access to enormous amounts of data (see col. 1, lines 26-27). Thereby, improving the reliability and operation of these centralized structured storage network systems (see Davis col. 2, lines 11-13).

As per claim 14, Kikuchi discloses "an application management table that stores the items of identification information and starting addresses of the plurality of applications, the plurality of applications corresponding to the items of identification, respectively (col. 4, lines 63-65).

As per claim 15, Kikuchi substantially discloses the invention as claimed except wherein an item of the items of identification information is given to one of the highest directory of the directory structure, the most subordinate directly of the directory structure, or a master directory of the directory structure. However, Davis discloses wherein an item of the items of identification information is given to one of the highest directory of the directory structure, the most subordinate directly of the directory structure, or a master directory of the directory structure (see col. 26, lines 36-44).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Nakashima with wherein an item of the items of identification information is given to one of the highest directory of the directory structure, the most subordinate directly of the directory structure, or a master directory of the directory structure as disclosed by Davis (see Davis Fig.

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10 and corresponding descriptions). Such a modification would allow the teachings of Kikuchi to provide users with quick and facile access to enormous amounts of data (see col. 1, lines 26-27). Thereby, improving the reliability and operation of these centralized structured storage network systems (see Davis col. 2, lines 11-13).

As per claim 16, Kikuchi discloses "an item of the information of the application addresses is given to each directory of the directory structure" (see col. 4, lines 62-64 and col. 9, lines 15-20).

As per claim 26, the limitations of claim 26 are rejected in the analysis of claim 12, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 27, Kikuchi discloses "wherein the memory card comprises an IC card" (see col. 9, lines 49-55).

As per claim 28, Kikuchi discloses "wherein the memory card comprises an IC card" (see col. 6, line 16 and col. 9, lines 49-55).

Allowable Subject Matter

ii) The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject

As per claims 1, 3-8, 23-25 and 29 the claimed features "electronically performing management so that when one of the data files is selected a needed application corresponding to the data file's a directory of the directories is automatically selected and executed by referring to the selected data file's directory to obtain its application's address information and therewith access and execute the application at the computer-readable storage location of the thus-obtained address information given to the directory, where the selection for execution is responsive to the data file of the directory being selected" in conjunction with other elements of the independent claims are not found as anticipated or obvious over the prior art made of record.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEAN B. FLEURANTIN whose telephone number is 571 – 272-4035. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:05 to 4:35.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 571 – 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).




Jean Bolte Fleurantin

Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2100

December 29, 2005



SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER